

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## Senator Laura Thielen

DISTRICT 25: KAILUA - WAIMANALO - HAWAI'I KAI

January 2018



Aloha  
Waimanalo!

The 2018 Legislative Session will open on January 17. The Legislative Session provides many opportunities for you to participate in our democracy by supporting or opposing bills. By submitting just one piece of testimony this session, you will have done your democratic duty. Let your voice be heard and send in your comments about bills that affect you.

Submitting testimony can be done in just a few minutes online. If you've never done it before or need a reminder, I'm including some basic instructions.

Thank you for taking interest in my newsletter. As always, please feel free to contact my office at 587-8388 if I can provide any assistance.

Mahalo,

*Laura*

### ADVOCATE FOR OR AGAINST A BILL

The screenshot shows the Hawaii State Legislature website interface. Annotations include: 'Submit Testimony' pointing to the 'Submit Testimony' icon; 'Hearing Notifications' pointing to the 'Hearing Notification' icon; and 'Measure Tracking' pointing to the 'Measure Tracking' icon. Other visible elements include the search bar, 'Recent Updates' section, and a sidebar with 'Register' and 'Measure Tracking' links.

The first step in advocating for or against a bill is to register through the Legislature's website at [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov). Registering allows you to: 1) track bills, 2) receive hearing notification by e-mail, and 3) submit testimony.

Be aware that testimony is only accepted if and when a bill gets a hearing. Once the notice of a hearing date has been sent, you only have a couple of days to submit testimony. For any questions on how to navigate the legislative process please contact the Legislative Reference Bureau at 587-0666, or go to: [lrbhawaii.org](http://lrbhawaii.org).

### FREE TAX RETURN PREPARATION

Hawaii State Legislators are hosting a free tax return preparation clinic!

**Saturday, January 27th, 9am — 2:30pm**

**Hawaii State Capitol, Third Floor**

**415 S. Beretania Street**



*\*For Eligible Hawaii Residents Only.*

Go to [www.hawaiitaxhelp.org](http://www.hawaiitaxhelp.org) for eligibility requirements.

*\*Appointment Required. Call (808) 450-4351.*

*\*If you miss this one, a second Clinic is scheduled for April 14, 2018.*



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25th Senatorial District: Kailua, Waimanalo, and Hawaii Kai

January 2018

## FREE EVENTS IN KOOLAUPOKO WITH BLUE ZONES PROJECT

### Purpose Workshop

Weds, Jan. 10, at 10am - 12pm | Kailua Elementary | 315 Kuulei Rd,  
Wake up each day with purpose and live longer, happier! Discover or re-discover your gifts, passion, and values.

### Give Back at Hookuaaina

Saturday, Jan. 13, at 8am - 12pm | 916C Auloa Road,

Join Blue Zones and Hookuaaina at Kapalai for a community lo'i volunteer event! The lo'i is nestled in the heart of Maunawili and is the headwaters of Kawainui Marsh. The work is muddy, and the weather changes regularly, so come prepared.

### Healthy Cooking Class

Thursday, Jan. 25, at 6pm - 7:15pm | Castle | 640 Ulukahiki St,

Join us for a FREE Cooking Demonstration in partnership with Adventist Health Castle. Learn how to prepare delicious plant-based recipes, and enjoy free samples.

### Gardening Demo

Saturday, Jan. 27, at 10 AM – 11:30 AM | Green Rows Farm | 41-756 Mahaiula Street, Waimanalo

Space is limited, so be sure to RSVP.

For more information and to register visit <http://hawaii.bluezonesproject.com/events/> or call (808) 226-3066

## TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD!

The Teacher of the Year award is a national program honoring eight teachers from Hawaii every year.

This year the award from the Windward District went to Del Onaga at Olomana School. He leads the successful Engineering Academy with his supportive and persistent style which allows his students to thrive. He trains his students to become life-long learners, and makes knowledge meaningful and retainable by addressing questions of "why".

We are blessed to have such excellent teachers in our communities.



## UPDATE: UNDERGROUND FUEL TANKS AT RED HILL

Two important documents have recently been posted to the [EPA's Red Hill website](#):

A four-page fact sheet summarizing the important work proceeding can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/red-hill/red-hill-updates>.

In addition, the recently submitted Tank Upgrades Alternatives Report can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/red-hill/tank-upgrade-alternatives-red-hill>. This report along with community input and other work produced will be used in selecting the final upgrade alternative in 2018.

Thank you for taking interest in protecting our aquifer at Red Hill. You can email any questions or comments to [redhill@epa.gov](mailto:redhill@epa.gov).

## CONTACT THE OFFICE OF SENATOR LAURA H. THIELEN

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